

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0627-US1

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

## METHOD AND APPARATUS TO PERFORM FABRIC MANAGEMENT

A method and apparatus to perform network fabric management is provided. The method and apparatus provide a mechanism by which modifications to components of the network fabric may be made without tearing down existing connections. The apparatus and method facilitate such fabric management by placing send queues in a send queue drain state and suspending the send queues affected by changes to the network fabric while the modifications are being made. Once the modifications are complete, the send queues are place back into an operational state.